

## House Resolution 292

By: Representatives Schofield of the 60<sup>th</sup>, Rich of the 97<sup>th</sup>, Carter of the 92<sup>nd</sup>, Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>, and Davis of the 87<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Lupus Foundation of America and recognizing Thursday, March 11, 2021,  
2 as Lupus Advocacy Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on Thursday, March 11, 2021, Representative Kim Schofield and the Georgia  
4 Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America will host Lupus Advocacy Day at the state  
5 capitol; and

6 WHEREAS, lupus is an acute and chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune system  
7 is unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every organ system in  
8 the body; and

9 WHEREAS, lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys,  
10 and brain, and thus has the potential to cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages,  
11 and organ failure; and

12 WHEREAS, at least 1.5 million Americans, including approximately 55,000 Georgians, are  
13 currently living with lupus; and

14 WHEREAS, lupus is a major health issue that has a significant impact on the economy of  
15 this state and takes an immeasurable physical, financial, and emotional toll on many families  
16 in Georgia; and

17 WHEREAS, the effects of lupus on a family can be devastating in that it is a chronic,  
18 lifelong, and life-threatening disease, and despite its prevalence, it remains one of the least  
19 recognizable and most misunderstood diseases, earning its label as the cruel mystery; and

20 WHEREAS, lupus affects primarily young women in their crucial childbearing years, but it  
21 can also affect men, children, and women of all ages; and

22 WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America is the nation's leading nonprofit voluntary  
23 health organization, dedicated to finding the causes and a cure for lupus while providing  
24 support and services to all people affected by lupus; and

25 WHEREAS, ninety percent of every dollar raised by the Georgia Chapter of the Lupus  
26 Foundation of America stays in Georgia to support the chapter's programs; and

27 WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America provides resources for thousands of patients  
28 and families, including support and information, physician referrals, public and professional  
29 education, and grassroots advocacy on the state and federal levels; and

30 WHEREAS, in 2014, Governor Nathan Deal established the Georgia Council on Lupus  
31 Education and Advocacy to investigate the level of education and awareness of lupus across  
32 the state; and

33 WHEREAS, the council has developed a statewide action plan and established a  
34 multidisciplinary collaboration that will launch lupus initiatives to increase knowledge by  
35 educating healthcare providers, consumers, and legislators and address early diagnosis,  
36 access to care, and health disparities in lupus.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
38 the members of this body commend the Lupus Foundation of America and other  
39 organizations devoted to finding a cure for lupus; support the individuals and families whose  
40 lives are affected by this autoimmune disease; and recognize Thursday, March 11, 2021, as  
41 Lupus Advocacy Day at the state capitol.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
43 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
44 Georgia Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America.